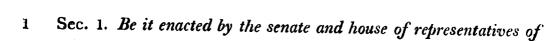
JANUARY 26, 1808.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house on Friday next.

A Bill,

Concerning public contracts.



- 2 the United States of America, in congress assembled, That from
- 3 and after the passage of this act, no officer of the United States
- 4 shall, on behalf of the United States, make any contract, bargain
- 5 or agreement, in writing or otherwise, with any member or mem-
- 6 bers of congress, or with any person, for his or their use, and every
- 7 such contract, bargain or agreement, shall be deemed and taken
- 8 to be absolutely void and of no effect, whether such contract, bar-
- 9 gain, or agreement be openly, or covertly, in the whole or in part,
- 10 for the use of any such member as aforesaid: Provided, That this
- 11 restriction shall not be construed to extend to the purchase, where

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12 immediate delivery is had, and immediate payment is made, of any 13 property, which, at the time of such purchase, was bona fide the 14 property of and belonging to any such member or members, in 15 his or their right, or as assignee in law, or fact, not purchased or 16 procured in consequence of any previous arrangement with, or promise from any public officer, or any agent of such public officer. Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That if any officer of the United 2 States shall knowingly make or enter into any contract, bargain or 3 agreement, other than such as are herein excepted, in writing or 4 otherwise, on behalf of the United States, with any member or 5 members of congress, or with any person for his or their use, be 7 such use open or covert, or if such officer shall authorize any 8 other person to make such contract, bargain or agreement, such 9 officer so offending shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of a high 10 crime and misdemeanor, and shall be removed from office, and ever after shall be incapable of holding any office under the 12 United States: Provided, That nothing in this act contained shall 13 be construed to prohibit, alter or affect any sale, contract, bargain 14 or agreement made for public lands. This act shall commence and

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15 be in force from and after the passing hereof.